

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, dated December 29, 2003, an RCE transmittal, the present Amendment, and a petition for one month extension of the period for response, with appropriate fee charge authorization, are submitted. Claims 1, 5 through 7, 11 through 14 and 16 have been amended. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 17 through 20 stand allowed.

Claims 1 through 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lepejian, of record. The statement of the rejection is based in the position that Lepejian discloses or suggests selectively applying a command control signal to the memory cell array. In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a built-in self test circuit that comprises:

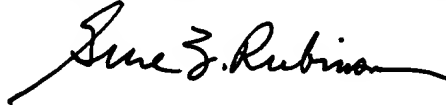
an instruction memory to store said program,
a programmable Algorithmic Pattern Generator
(ALPG) to generate said address signal according to said
stored program and generate said test data according to said
generated address signal.

The BIST of Lepejian lacks these claim features and, it is submitted, there is nothing in the Lepejian disclosure that would have suggested modification to the artisan. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 through 16 are believed to be patentably distinguishable.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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